

Office of Child Welfare Programs

Policy
Transmittal

Lois Day, Director of Child Welfare Programs

Authorized Signature**Number:** CW-PT-14-008**Issue Date:** 8/15/14**Topic:** Search for and Engagement of Relatives**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- ☐ New policy ☐ Policy change ☐ Policy clarification ☐ Executive letter
☒ Administrative Rule ☐ Manual update ☐ Other: _____

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare | Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

Policy/rule title:	Relative Definition (10 rules)		
Policy/rule number(s):	413-010-0310, 413-070-0063, 413-070-0505, 413-070-0620, 413-070-0655, 413-070-0905, 413-120-0010, 413-120-0195, 413-120-0510, 413-120-0710	Release no:	
Effective date:	8/4/2014	Expiration:	
Web Address:	http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/cross_index.htm		

Discussion/interpretation:

The Office of Child Welfare Programs is amending the definition of “relative” to address unintended consequences of a recent rule change. The Department changed the definition of “relative” effective June 3, 2014, to clarify the order in which the Department considers potential adoptive and substitute care resources for placement of children in the Department’s custody, specifically where in the order of placement fall birth relatives of children or parents whose prior legal relationship has been dissolved by adoption. The June 3, 2014 change had the unintended consequence of including this set of relatives in the diligent relative search requirement. This most recent amendment of the relative definition now makes it clear that the relative in this

category is identified by the child or birth family, or self identifies, therefore, search is not required.

Implementation/transition instructions: The new rules were filed August 4, 2014.

Training/communication plan: Communication will occur through program manager meetings, supervisor quarterlies, e-mail, and field consultation.

Local/branch action required: Local branches are not required to search for birth relatives of adopted children who return to substitute care, but they must consider this category of relative in the order of preference as outlined in Administrative Rule when they are identified or self-identify.

Central office action required: Proceed to permanent rules.

Field/stakeholder review: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing Instructions: These amended rules are being filed as emergency temporary rules. Final rules will occur within six months.

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

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